GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

MINES & MINERALS – Major Minerals - Grant of Composite License for Iron ore Block over an extent of 1327 Ha in Minchery R.F., Nemakallu (V), Bommanahal (M), and Hirdahal & Obulapuram Villages of D.Hirehal (M), Ananthapuramu District in favour of M/s South West Mining Ltd by declaring them as "Successful Bidder" through e-Auction under Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 18(3) of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 - Orders - Issued.

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INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE (M.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 150 Dated: 25-08-2025

Read the following:

1. G.O.Ms.No.117, Industries and Commerce (M.II) Department, dated: 28-11-2015
2. Letter No. APMDC-12022/1/2017/Geo/1710, dated:27-02-2023
3. G.O.Ms. No. 56, I&C(M-III) Department dt.07.10.2020.
4. From the MoM, GoI, Lr.No.7/59/2022-M.IV, Dt. 10.04.2023
5. Memo No.INC01-MG0MAJM/4/2024-M-III Date.27-01-2025
6. Lr.No.2593004/P-Mincheri-RF-/2023 18-03-2025
7. Letter of Principal Conservator of Forest, Rc.No. 15029/60/2025-FCA-1.Dated:19-05-2025.
8. Letter of APMDC No.APMDC-12022/1/2017 /242, Dt:02.06.2025
9. Letter of Principal Conservator of Forest, Rc.No. 15029/60/2025-FCA-1(i).Dated:02-07-2025.
10. Letter of Principal Conservator of Forest, Rc.No.15029/60/2025-FCA-1(ii).Dated:02-07-2025.
11. From the C&DMG, A.P., letter No.2593004/P-Mincheri-RF/2023, Dt:29.07.2025

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ORDER:

In the G.O 1st read above, Government have reserved the area for M/s APMDC Ltd for an extent of 1327 Hectares in Minchery RF, Nemakallu (V), Bommanahal (M), and Hirdahal & Obulapuram Villages of D. Hirehal (M), Ananthapuramu District. M/s APMDC Ltd through its Letter 2nd cited,

has submitted a surrender of the reservation area which was set to expire on 28-03-2023, was insufficient to complete the drilling of 20 boreholes. Additionally, the APMDC Ltd highlighted the non-availability of Compensatory Afforestation Land as a significant impediment to obtaining the necessary mining lease within the stipulated period. Despite the submission of the surrender request, the reservation period was considered to have expired on 28-03-2023.

2. In the G.O 3rd read above, Government has issued orders constituting High Power Committee which has been assigned the task of finalizing the value of the block, determining the block eligibility criteria, and addressing financial and other related matters associated with the e-Auction process. The High-Power Committee meeting was convened on 09-05-2023 and finalized the modalities to conduct e-Auction related to the grant of licenses for four Iron ore blocks and four Manganese blocks. According to the minutes, it has been decided to conduct an e-auction for the grant of a Composite Lease for an area of 1327 hectares in Minchery RF, Nemakallu (V), Bommanahal (M), and Hirdahal & Obulapuram Villages of D.Hirehal (M), Ananthapuramu District, with a reserve price set at 10.00% of the value of the mineral dispatched.

3. The C&DMG, AP., based on the prior approval of the MoM, GoI issued vide letter 4th cited, has issued the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) dt. .2023 calling participation of prospective bidders in e-auction for the said block through AP e-Procurement portal. In the e-Auction M/s South West Mining Ltd of Bellary became the preferred bidder with a final price of 12.60% of the mineral's dispatched value for the said block. M/s South West Mining Ltd vide letter dt:22.03.2024 has submitted the Performance security amount of Rs. 1,50,00,000/- within the time therein through Bank Guarantee No. 0613NDDG00005724, dated:22-03-2024, issued by ICICI Bank Limited and valid up to 21-03-2029.

4. In the Letter 5th read above, Government have issued Letter of Intent (LoI) under Rule 18(1) of amended Mineral Auction Rules, 2021 for the said block for grant of Composite Licence to M/s South West Mining Ltd; the preferred bidder as required under Rule 18(2) of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 that they shall be considered to be the "successful bidder" upon;

1. continuing to be in compliance with all the terms and conditions of eligibility.

2. obtaining all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections and the like as may be required under applicable laws for commencement of prospecting operations; and
3. submitting the Scheme of prospecting.

5. The C&DMG, AP., vide their letter 6th cited, requested PCCF to expedite the process of Forest clearance in the subject block in favor of the Preferred bidder. In response to the above letter, the PCCF, Guntur vide their letter 7th cited requested the C&DMG, AP., to justify the action in recommending the proposal of M/s South West Mining Limited for processing of Forest clearance under the provisions of VAN Adhiyam, 1980 in the absence of withdrawal of the application of public sector under taking company i.e M/S APMDC Limited which was in force from 2018 onwards.

6. M/s APMDC Limited vide their letter 8th cited had requested the PCCF, Guntur to accept withdrawal of the forest clearance proposals submitted by M/s APMDC. Accordingly, the C&DMG, AP., vide letter Dt:15.06.2025, requested the PCCF to accept withdrawal proposals submitted by M/s APMDC and process the forest clearance application of the Lol holder M/s South West Mining Limited in the subject area. Subsequently, the PCCF, Guntur vide letter 9th cited, requested the Special Chief Secretary to Government, Environment, Science and Technology Dept., as the earlier proposal submitted by M/s APMDC Limited for Forest Clearance for getting survey and exploration by way of drilling of bare holes may be withdrawn from parvesh portal and enable to process the application of M/s South West Mining Limited for survey and exploration in Minchery RF.

7. The C&DMG, AP., has further stated that, the PCCF, Guntur vide letter Dt:02.07.2025 requested DFO Ananthapuram to advise the user agency M/s South West Mining Limited to apply for survey and exploration work by way of drilling of bore holes in the simplified Form-C in parvesh portal. M/s South West Mining Limited vide letter Dt:22.07.2025 has submitted copy of E-signed final submitted scheme of prospecting in respect of Mincheri RF Iron Ore block. Further, the Preferred bidder M/s South West Mining Limited vide letter Dt:23.07.2025 had requested the C&DMG, AP., to declare the bidder as successful bidder and grant the Composite Licence in respect of Mincheri RF Iron Ore block and gave the undertaking as following:

1. Undertaking for compliance with all terms & conditions of eligibility is enclosed in his letter.
2. Undertaking for obtaining all consents, approvals, permits, no-objections and the like as may be required under the applicable laws for commencement of prospecting operations is enclosed in his letter.

3. Acknowledgment copy of Scheme of prospecting submitted vide letter dated 12.05.2025 & 22.07.2025 is enclosed in his letter.

8. In the letter 9th read above, the Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, AP., has requested the Government to declare M/s South West Mining Limited as Successful Bidder and grant Composite Licence to the successful bidder for Mincheri RF Iron Ore Block over an extent of 1327 Ha in Ananthapuram District, subject to the following condition that the company shall obtain all prior consents/approvals from the relevant landowners or departments before commencing prospecting operations.

9. Government, after careful examination of the above facts and circumstances reported by the C&DM&G, AP., hereby declare M/s South West Mining Limited as "Successful Bidder" through e-Auction and accordingly grant Composite License for Mincheri RF Iron Ore Block over an extent of 1327 Ha in Ananthapuram District in favour of M/s South West Mining Limited under Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 18(3) of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, subject to the condition that the company shall obtain all prior consents/approvals from the relevant landowners or departments before commencing prospecting operations and also subject to satisfaction of all other terms and conditions laid down under MM(D&R) Act and the Rules made thereunder and also standing instructions and guidelines issued by the GoI and State Government from time to time.

10. The Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, Government of A.P., shall take necessary further action accordingly, after satisfying himself that the grantee fulfils all the required terms and conditions as stipulated in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PRAVIN KUMAR
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (MINES)

To
The Commissioner and Director of Mines & Geology, Government of A.P., Ibrahimpatnam, NTR District.
M/s South West Mining Ltd, B-13,14, RIIC Industrial Area, Opp Rajasthan State, Warehouse, Barmer – 344001, Rajasthan, India. (RPAD).
Copyto:
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Aranya Bhavan, PVS Land Mark, Mangalagiri, Guntur District-522503
The District Forest Officer (DFO), Ananthapuram District.

The Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Mines, Sastry Bhavan, New Delhi -110001.
The Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines, Indira Bhavan, Civil Lines, Nagpur - 440001.
The Director General, Mines Safety, Dhanbad, Jarkand.
The Regional Controller of Mines, Koti, Hyderabad.
The OSD to Minister(M&G)
SF/SC (C.No:2520146)

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER